

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND
EMPLOYEES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**OUTCOMES OF THE STRENGTHENING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
REVIEW**

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the recommendations of the independent Strengthening Overview and Scrutiny Review and establish a working group to develop an action plan.

Information

2. The Council established the new model of executive governance in May 2022, creating a Cabinet and Scrutiny function. In the process of agreeing the new model and required changes to the Council's Constitution it was recommended that the operation of the new arrangements be reviewed after 12 months operation.
3. The cross-party Member Working Group considered the operation of the new governance model and recommended minor changes to arrangements which were reflected in revisions to the Constitution. These were agreed by Full Council at its meeting in July 2023.
4. An independent review of the operation of the Council's scrutiny function was also commissioned from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. This was a member led process which took the form of a review into current arrangements and made recommendations for improvements to how scrutiny operates at the Council.
5. The initial stage of the review was carried out between September and October 2023:
 - a. Stage one involved one to one conversations with a small number of officers and Members 'closest' to the scrutiny function, observation of Overview Committee and Health Scrutiny Committee (September meetings) and review of the October Forward Plan
 - b. Stage two involved a series of facilitated group conversations between the Independent Reviewer and individual political groups, backbench Members, Cabinet members and the cross-party Member Working Group plus meeting with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees. Discussions also subsequently took place with officers including the Corporate Leadership Team.

- c. Stage three involved preparing findings, reporting to various groups individually on those findings and supporting the start of development of action planning and identifying specific areas of work.
6. Governance and Ethics Committee at its meeting on 17 April 2024, considered and approved the recommendations of the review and requested that Overview Committee develop and oversee implementation of an action plan in response to those recommendations.
7. The outcomes and recommendations of the review are attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
8. It is proposed that Overview Committee establish a member working group to develop an action plan for Committee to consider and monitor implementation.

Other Options Considered

9. It was agreed that a review of the operation of the new governance arrangements be undertaken after 12 months in operation. The recommendations set out in the attached appendix in relation to scrutiny were made following an independent review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny working closely with elected members. Given that scrutiny is a member-led process it is important that Overview Committee lead the work in developing and implementing an action plan regarding the recommendations.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To ensure that Overview Committee is able to lead on developing the action plan and its implementation.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) To note the outcomes and recommendations of the Strengthening Overview and Scrutiny Review as set out in appendix A.
- 2) That a working group be established to develop an action plan arising from the recommendations in the Strengthening Overview and Scrutiny Review as set out in Appendix A.

Marjorie Toward
Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees and Monitoring Officer

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Heather Dickinson, Group Manager Legal, Democratic and Information Governance, Tel: 01159774835; Email heather.dickinson@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KK 23/4/2024)

13. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Overview Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 23/04/2024)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Outcomes of the Strengthening Overview and Scrutiny Review](#) report to Governance and Ethics Committee on 17 April 2024 (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All